

FM CIA.
TO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
SSO ACSI DA
SSO ARLINGTON HALL STATION
AFSSO USAF
CNO
DIA/ISIC
JCS
NIC
DIRNSA COMMAND CENTER
STATE (RCI)
CIA-OCI
ZEM

~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM
DOI 17 FEBRUARY 1968
SUBJECT SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1300 HOURS
LOCAL TIME 17 FEBRUARY 1968

ACQ VIETNAM SAIGON (17 FEBRUARY 1968)
SOURCE THIS IS A VIETNAM SITUATION REPORT PREPARED
AT 1300 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON 17 FEBRUARY 1968.

1. NUMEROUS UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF VARYING RELIABILITY SUGGEST THAT A RENEWED ATTACK ON SAIGON IS IMMINENT; SOME REPORTS POINT TO THE 18TH FEBRUARY AS THE DATE, OTHER REPORTS HAD INDICATED THE 11TH, 12TH, 13TH AND 15TH. FIRM INDICATIONS FROM ALL SOURCES, HOWEVER, DO NOT AT THIS TIME SUGGEST THE IMMINENCE OF AN ATTACK UPON SAIGON. (SOURCE: COMPETENT AMERICAN OBSERVERS)

2. A REFLECTION OF THE FOREGOING IS THE STATEMENT [REDACTED] THAT THE PRESENT CURFEW PREVAILING IN PRECINCTS ONE THROUGH FIVE MAY BE MODIFIED SOMETIME NEXT WEEK TO ALLOW MOVEMENT BY THE POPULACE UNTIL 2100 HOURS. (SOURCE: AMERICAN OBSERVER [REDACTED])

3. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WINTER-SPRING CAMPAIGN FURTHER SIGNIFICANT VIET CONG / NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY ACTIVITY CAN BE EXPECTED. MOREOVER, STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS WEIGH HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF A QUICK FOLLOW-UP TO THE TET OFFENSIVE. IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER, THE ENEMY MUST REALIZE THAT THE LONGER HE WAITS, THE MORE DIFFICULT MILITARY TASK HE WILL HAVE. THE FIRST ATTACK, THE TET OFFENSIVE, WAS LAUNCHED UNDER THE COVER OF THE TET HOLIDAY, A KNOWN PERIOD OF SECURITY RELAXATION AND COUNTRYWIDE CONCERN ONLY WITH CELEBRATION. WHILE THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF THE TET OFFENSIVE WERE DESCRIBED TO ENEMY CADRES IN SOME CASES LONG BEFORE THE ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED, THE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF TIME AND PLACE WERE NOT PASSED OUT UNTIL THE FINAL MOMENT. WITHIN THE GENERAL PLAN, IT NOW APPEARS FROM PRISONER INTERROGATIONS THAT A SECOND ATTACK WAS ENVISIONED. WHETHER THE PLAN NOW REMAINS IN EFFECT, FOLLOWING THE MILITARY FAILURE OF THE FIRST STAGE, IS NOT KNOWN. (SOURCE: AMERICAN OBSERVER)

4. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT
ARPAC PACAF

450

Approved for Release
Date 19 NOV 1997

~~SECRET~~